

George Washington to Charles Scott, September 22, 1778, The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799. John C. Fitzpatrick, Editor.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES SCOTT

[September 22, 1778.]

Sir: I received your letter of yesterdays date this morning.¹ The security of your command makes it in my opinion perfectly expedient to take post five miles above Claps² tavern. You should if possible be out of surprising distance, while your scouts may be made use of to watch the movements of the enemy. I would have you to keep a constant look out on the Sound from the commanding bights [near] Claps and when you observe any extraordinary body of transports you will immediately send a report to Genl. Gates at Danbury, and should similar appearances take place in the North River, you will make the communication to General Putnam, who is encamped opposite West point. You will continue your intelligence to myself as usual.

The flour at Wrights mills may be converted into biscuit, altho it is unfit for bread. I think it may be all wrought up in this way.

If the deserters are taken you will make particular inquiry into the encouragement which you suppose they had from an officer. This matter should be well attended to. As you do not mention the corps to which they belonged it is out of my power to make any sort of inquisition on the subject, or to know whether any of them have returned to their regiments [some being at Danbury and others under Lord Stirling, Genl. Lincoln &ca. Spare no pains,

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nor expence, to obtain and transmit the earliest intelligence of the Enemy's movements and designs, get an intelligent person if you can to remain constantly in the City and others to communicate with him for the purpose of conveying his observations &ca.] I am &ca.³

¹cott was stationed in Philipseburg Patent, N.Y.

²enjamin(?) Clapp, of Westchester County, N.Y.

³he draft is in the writing of James McHenry. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington. On September 22 Washington wrote also to Brig. Gen. Gold Selleek Silliman, commanding the Connecticut Militia, at Fairfield, Conn., sending him a provision order for troops doing guard duty. "The Guard at Norwalk answers a particular purpose and can not therefore be removed at present to Fairfield." This letter is in the Washington Papers.